



Infrastructure Related Funds Status Report

Recipient: Prevent Blindness Iowa/ Iowa Society to Prevent Blindness

Contract Number: 5881VS03

Contract Period: July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Contract Amount: \$100,000

Description of Project: *To increase statewide vision screening programs to children through volunteers and nurses. The program will specifically target children in child care centers. The program includes training, certification and all necessary vision screening materials. Additional educational materials and information regarding existing community and national vision care resources will also be provided during the vision screening.*

Describe project outcomes for SFY 2011.

Progress of Work: Provide brief narrative description of major activity and accomplishments for each of the contract components identified in Contract Article V - Description of Work and Services:

1. Develop a vision screening training program for school nurses
 - *Continue to work with the Iowa School Nurse Organization to develop the best method of contacting and working with school nurses to implementing a vision screening program.*
 - *Contacted over 50% of Iowa school districts to determine if they conducted vision screenings and if so what grade levels and procedures used. We also asked if they would like to receive vision screening training and materials to assist them with their vision screening efforts. Over 90% indicated they would appreciate vision screening training. Began working with individual school districts to educate on proper vision screening protocol, procedures and implementation of an effective vision screening program.*
 - *Completed screening training course materials.*
 - *Continue to work on securing a provider to offer continuing education units.*
 - *Purchased materials needed for the vision screening trainings and certification process and provided these material to nurses completing the vision screening certification process.*
 - *Held several vision screening trainings in district certifying school nurses in children's vision screening techniques. This has resulted in thousand more children receiving a vision screening.*
 - *Attended a vision screening summit to learn new vision screening techniques, methods and equipment availability.*

2. Recruit and train additional vision screening projects
 - *Contacted other organizations to educate on the importance of vision screening and secure their interest in conducting local vision screenings and certifying their volunteers.*
 - *Trained and certified 36 new vision screeners. These individuals provided screening to an additional 2,514 children.*
 - *Provided vision screening training to an additional 70 individuals who assist certified vision screeners conducting vision screenings.*
 - *Worked with preschools, child care centers and school districts to educate them on the importance of vision screening. Provided vision screening to an additional 20 child care centers and preschools.*
 - *Continued identifying and contacting groups/organizations to become certified vision screeners.*
 - *Provided vision screening to over 18,000 children across the state of Iowa.*

3. Provide follow-up
 - *Provided follow-up to children's families that are referred to determine result of eye care visit or to encourage them to make an appointment for an eye exam. The completed contacts resulted in a completed follow-up rate of 48%, meaning that we have the results from the child's eye doctor – verbal information from the parent is not considered a completed follow-up.*
 - *Promoted VSP's Sight for Students Program to school nurses, county health departments and directors in preschool and child care centers. This program assisted nearly 70 low income families with a certificate for a free eye exam and glasses. These services were valued at over \$10,000.*
 - *Worked with school nurses to encourage timely follow-up to student's referred and helped find resources to assist families with the cost of an eye exam if they did not qualify for VSP's Sight for Students program.*

4. Distribute educational materials on the importance of vision screening
 - *In addition to web site visits, distributed over 500 pieces of information throughout the state of Iowa.*
 - *Continued educating individual school nurses, school districts, and preschool and child care centers on the importance of vision screening. Contacts were made over the phone, in writing, through other organizations and in person.*
 - *Promoted VSP's Sight for Students Program to school nurses, county health departments, and preschool and child care centers as well as other alternatives to pay for an eye exam and glasses for families in financial need.*
 - *Educated parents and care givers about appropriate vision and eye health for their children through a pilot of Star Pupils, a K-2 curriculum on eye health and safety.*

5. Provide a single, standardized method of screening used by all volunteers and school nurses across the state of Iowa.
 - *Prevent Blindness America, our national organization, has developed standardized screening protocol that Prevent Blindness Iowa uses to train and certify Iowa vision screeners. The vision screening protocol was developed by leading experts in child health and vision care from across the country, including ophthalmologists, optometrists, pediatricians, public health strategists, and vision and eye health researchers. The vision screening protocol is based on the continued review of*

scientifically-validated research. This was reviewed by Prevent Blindness America's scientific advisory committee this year.

- Pilot programs are underway in two affiliates testing other children's vision screening methods. The results will be made available by the end of the year.
- Meetings are being conducted with professional associations to determine if they can "endorse" Prevent Blindness Iowa's/America's vision screening protocol.
- Continue to work with school districts to offer vision screening training and materials to assist with the standardization of vision screening across the state.

Total Estimated Cost of the Project: \$ 144,622

List of All Revenue Sources used for the Project: State of Iowa funding, private donations from corporations, individuals and foundations.

The rest of the funds were provided by a variety of foundations, corporations and individuals throughout the state of Iowa.

Amount of Funds Expended: \$144,622

Amount of Funds Obligated: \$100,000

Date of project completion or estimated completion: ongoing project

<u>Jeanne Burmeister</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>08/12/2011</u>
Signature	Title	Date